

News: Readers' choice

Some of the most read stories of 2012.

14 December 2012

The most popular news of the year included stories on the unusual grey matter of genius, the modus operandi of a dinosaur and the maths of prime numbers.



[Snapshots explore Einstein's unusual brain](#)

Photos reveal unique features of genius's cerebral cortex.

16 November 2012



[The mysterious case of the missing noble gas](#)

Xenon has almost vanished from Earth's atmosphere. German geoscientists think they know where it went.

10 October 2012



[How to eat a Triceratops](#)

Tyrannosaurus tore the head off armoured prey to reach the tender neck meat.

24 October 2012



[City birds use cigarette butts to smoke out parasites](#)

Lining nests with material from discarded cigarettes may help keep out parasitic mites.

5 December 2012



[Mysterious radiation burst recorded in tree rings](#)

Spike in carbon-14 levels indicates a massive cosmic event — but supernovae and solar flares ruled out.

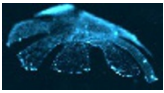
3 June 2012



[How to confuse a moral compass](#)

Survey 'magic trick' causes attitude reversal.

19 September 2012



Artificial jellyfish built from rat cells

Reverse-engineered life form could be used to test drugs.

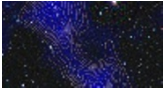
22 July 2012



New carnivorous harp sponge discovered in deep sea

Deep-diving remotely-operated vehicle spots the unusual invertebrate off the coast of California

9 November 2012



Dark matter's tendrils revealed

Direct measurement of a dark-matter 'filament' confirms its existence in a galaxy supercluster.

4 July 2012



Proof claimed for deep connection between primes

If it is true, a solution to the *abc* conjecture about whole numbers would be an 'astounding' achievement.

10 September 2012

Nature | doi:10.1038/nature.2012.12053

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